IN THE CLAIMS

1. **(currently amended)** A frame forwarding installation for sending a received frame to ~~a path~~one of a plurality of paths conforming to a destination address contained in a header of the frame, which has been received from a transmitting terminal, comprising:

an application discriminating unit for referring to the header of the received frame and determining whether an application of a host layer in the transmitting terminal is a real-time application; and

a frame transmitting unit for sending in duplicate the received frame to a plurality of paths in parallel in the direction of a destination if the application is ~~a~~ the real-time application, and for sending the received frame to ~~an only path~~one of said plurality of paths in the direction of ~~a~~ the destination if the application is not ~~a~~ the real-time application.

2. **(currently amended)** The frame forwarding installation according to claim 1, wherein said application discriminating unit determines that the application of the host layer is ~~a~~ the real-time application when a port number of the received frame matches a port number of the real-time application.

3. **(currently amended)** The frame forwarding installation according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of interface units;

wherein said frame transmitting unit has an address table which specifies the plurality of interface units in association with a destination address and sends the received frame to the plurality of paths via the plurality of interface units, which conform to the destination address, if the application is ~~a~~ the real-time application.

4. **(currently amended)** The frame forwarding installation according to claim 1, further comprising a tag attaching unit for attaching a tag, which includes a frame identifier, to ~~a~~ the frame;

wherein ~~a~~ the frame forwarding installation on the side of a receiving terminal utilizes the frame identifier when determining whether an identical frame has already been received or not.

5. **(currently amended)** A frame forwarding installation for sending a received frame to ~~a path~~one of a plurality of paths conforming to a destination address contained in a header of the frame, which has been received from a transmitting terminal, comprising:

an application-type discriminating unit for referring to the header of the received frame and discriminating the type of application of a host layer in the transmitting terminal; and

a frame transmitting unit for transmitting in duplicate the received frame to a plurality of paths in parallel in the direction of a destination if the type of ~~an~~ application is a predetermined type, and for sending the received frame to ~~an only path~~one of said plurality of paths in the direction of ~~a~~ the destination if the type of ~~an~~ application is not the predetermined type.

6. (original) The frame forwarding installation according to claim 5, wherein said application-type discriminating unit discriminates the type of application of the host layer from a TCP port number of the received frame.

7. (previously presented) The frame forwarding installation according to claim 5, further comprising a plurality of interface units;

wherein said frame transmitting unit has an address table which specifies the plurality of interface units in association with the destination address and sends the received frame to the plurality of paths via the plurality of interface units, which conform to the destination address, if the type application is the predetermined type.

8. (original) The frame forwarding installation according to claim 5, further comprising a tag attaching unit for attaching a tag, which includes a frame identifier, to a frame;

wherein a frame forwarding installation on the side of a receiving terminal utilizes the frame identifier when determining whether an identical frame has already been received or not.

9. **(currently amended)** A frame forwarding installation for sending a received frame to ~~a path~~one of a plurality of paths conforming to a destination address contained in a header of the frame, which has been received from a transmitting terminal, comprising:

an address-match discriminating unit for determining whether the destination address or transmission-source address contained in the header of the received frame matches an address that has already been registered; and

a frame transmitting unit for sending in duplicate the received frame to a plurality of paths in parallel in the direction of a destination if the addresses match, and for sending the received frame to ~~an only path~~one of said plurality of paths in the direction of ~~a~~ the destination if the addresses do not match.

10. (original) The frame forwarding installation according to claim 9, further comprising a plurality of interface units;

wherein said frame transmitting unit has an address table which specifies a plurality of interface units in association with a destination address and sends the received frame to a plurality of paths via a plurality of interface units, which conform to a destination address, if the addresses match.

11. (previously presented) The frame forwarding installation according to claim 9, further comprising a tag attaching unit for attaching a tag, which includes a frame identifier, to the frame;

wherein a frame forwarding installation on the side of a receiving terminal utilizes the frame identifier when determining whether an identical frame has already been received or not.

12. – 18. **(canceled)**